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THE CITATION OF SOME GENERA  
OF THE LAURACEAE<sup>1</sup>

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IN THE COURSE of a review of the genera of Lauraceae occurring in the southeastern United States it has been necessary to verify the citations of the native and naturalized genera and their typification. Hardly any uniformity in these matters exists in the literature of this difficult family, especially in connection with groups published prior to C. G. Nees' basic monographic treatment in 1836. *Cinnamomum*, for example, is still being cited variously as of Linnaeus, Blume, Trew or Nees & Ebermaier. Still another author has been proposed for this genus and for *Persea* and *Sassafras* in recent papers by Kostermans (1952, 1957).

It is hoped that the notes which follow will help to clarify the bibliographic citation of these and other genera grouped by Linnaeus under his all-inclusive *Laurus* (Gen. Pl. ed. 5. 173. 1754). Supposing that the glands of the third series of stamens were a constant generic characteristic (rather than one of very nearly the entire family), Linnaeus lumped under his "452. LAURUS.\* *Tournef.* 367." plants formerly treated as separate genera (and later restored to generic rank by one or more authors in spite of the Linnaean influence which lasted almost fifty years). Included by Linnaeus were "*Cinnamomum Herm.* H. L. B. 656. *Burm. zeyl.* 28: 1. *Camphora Gronov. Diss.* *Persea Plum.* 20. *Borbonia Plum.* 2. *Benzoë Boerh.* *Sassafras Off.*" In the Linnaean interpretation, each of these generic names was used for that of a species under *Laurus*.

Recently, in an historical review of the Lauraceae (1952) and in his synopsis of the family (1957), both works representing an enormous amount of time and effort and of great value toward an understanding of the group, Kostermans has accepted G. R. Boehmer's 1760 edition of C. G. Ludwig's *Definitiones Generum Plantarum* as the place of valid publication of *Cinnamomum*, *Camphora*, *Borbonia*, *Persea*, *Benzoin*, and *Sassafras*. While it is most certainly desirable to establish the earliest possible date for these names, in this instance the publication appears to be invalid

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under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. On page 63 of this edition, under "188. LAURUS. *Linn.* Ed. V. n. 452," following a generic description identical with that in the edition of 1747, come the pertinent lines: "*Sexus et numerus partium variat, staminum tubercula pro constanti generico caractere assumit Linnaeus; et ab eodem huc refertur.*" There follow the names and good short descriptions (here omitted) of:

LAURUS *Tourn.* 597.

CINNAMOMUM *Burm. Zeyl.* 28. CARVA *H. Mal. T. I.* p. 107.

CAMPHORA *Boerh. II.* 261.

BORBONIA *Plum. G.* 3.

PERSEA *Plum. G.* 44.

BENZOIN *Boerh. II.* 259.

SASSAFRAS *C. B. Pin.* 431.

LAURUS INDICA *Aldini licet monente Hallero Goett.* p. 15.

These are unnumbered, placed beneath *Laurus* in the fashion of similar notes and clearly intended synonyms throughout the book, and are in italics in the index (the usual practice for synonyms). The descriptions are also in italics, in contrast to the roman type of accepted genera in this work.

The earlier edition of Ludwig (1747) includes on p. 35 under "133. LAURUS. *Linn.*" the same generic description followed by the note "*Huc igitur a Linnaeo referuntur:*" and the same generic names of the later edition, with the exception of *Laurus indica* which was added by Boehmer along with more complete citations.

Clearly the names appended to *Laurus* were not accepted by either Ludwig or Boehmer, both of whom followed Linnaeus in construing that genus in its very broadest sense. They cannot be attributed properly to Boehmer for, being placed by him in the synonymy of *Laurus*, they must be regarded as invalid. (*Cf.* Art. 33, Internat. Code Bot. Nomencl. 1956.)

Although Boehmer's names are not acceptable, it would seem necessary to follow Rehder (1949) and Little (1953) in adopting those of Lauraceae from Trew in Blackwell's Herbal (1757, 1760). This work is a nomenclatural hodge-podge following no particular system, but *Sassafras*, *Cinnamomum*, and *Camphora* are adequately described and illustrated with clear and unmistakable references linking them to the corresponding Linnaean species. If the generic names now generally cited as dating from Miller, *Gard. Dict. Abr.* ed. 4. 1754, are legitimate under the Code, those of Trew must be equally acceptable. *Cinnamomum*, *Camphora*, and *Sassafras* of Trew antedate by a number of years the other possible authors of those names.

The citations which follow are not complete but include the earliest place of publication, the second earliest in most instances, and other data.

BENZOIN *Fabr. Enum. Meth. Pl. Horti Medici Helmstad.* ed. 2. 401. 1761, nom. rejic. (Type: *Laurus Benzoin* L. [= *Lindera Benzoin* (L.) Blume]). =

*Lindera* Thunb. *Nova Gen. Pl.* 2: 44. 1783 (Type: *L. umbellata* Thunb.); Blume, *Mus. Bot. Lugd.-Bat.* 1: 323. 1851, nom. cons. Non *Lindera* Adanson, *Fam. Pl.* 2: 425. 1763.

**BORBONIA** Miller, *Gard. Dict. Abr. ed.* 4. 1754 (based on a mixture including at least *Persea* Miller and *Nectandra* Rol. ex Rottb.; cf. Kostermans, 1952); Adanson, *Fam. Pl.* 2: 341. 1763 (a mixture, including *Persea*, *Nectandra*, *Ocotea* Aubl.). Non **Borbonia** L. 1753 (Leguminosae).

**CAMPHORA** Trew, *Herb. Blackwell. Cent.* 4, signature L. t. 347. 1760 (Type: *Laurus Camphora* L. [= *Cinnamomum Camphora* (L.) T. F. L. Nees & Ebermaier]); C. G. Nees in Wallich, *Pl. As. Rar.* 2: 61, 72. 1831 (Type: *Camphora officinarum* C. G. Nees [= *Cinnamomum Camphora*]). = **Cinnamomum** Trew, sect. *Camphora* (Trew) Meissn. [attributed by Meissner to C. G. Nees].

**Cinnamomum** Trew, *Herb. Blackwell. Cent.* 4, signature M. t. 354. 1760 (Type: *Laurus Cinnamomum* L. [= *C. zeylanicum* Blume]); Blume, *Bijdr. Fl. Nederl. Indië* 568. 1826 (Type: *C. zeylanicum* [Garc.] Blume).

**Persea** Miller, *Gard. Dict. Abr. ed.* 4. 1754, nom. cons.<sup>2</sup> (Type: *Laurus Persea* L. [= *P. americana* Miller, 1768]); Miller, *Gard. Dict. ed.* 8. 1768 (Type: *P. americana* Miller); Gaertn. f. *Fruct.* 3: 222. t. 221. 1805 (Type: *P. gratissima* Gaertn. f. [= *P. americana* Miller]).

**Sassafras** Trew, *Herb. Blackwell. Cent.* 3, signature P. t. 267. 1757 (Type: *Laurus Sassafras* L. [= *S. albidum* (Nutt.) C. G. Nees]); T. F. L. Nees & Ebermaier, *Handb. Med.-Pharm. Bot.* 2: 418. 1831 (Type: *S. officinale* T. F. L. Nees & Ebermaier, "*officinalis*." [= *S. albidum*]).

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<sup>2</sup> Conservation unnecessary.